

No. 202

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali and has the honor to refer to the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Mali concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Archaeological Material from the Region of the Niger River Valley and the Bandiagara Escarpment (Cliff) signed at Washington September 19, 1997 as extended (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"). The Embassy, on behalf of the Government of the United States of America, proposes that, pursuant to Article IV.A of the Agreement, the Agreement be extended for an additional five-year period.

The Embassy further proposes that, pursuant to Article IV. B of the Agreement, the Agreement be amended by replacing Article II with the attached revised Article II. The Embassy also proposes that the title of the Agreement be changed to "Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Mali concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Archaeological Material from Mali from the Paleolithic Era (Stone Age) to Approximately the Mid-Eighteenth Century" to reflect the broader scope of archaeological material to be protected under the Agreement as hereby amended and extended.

If the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy proposes that this note, including the attached revised Article II, and the Ministry's note in reply, shall constitute an agreement to amend and extend the Agreement, which shall enter into force on the date of your note in reply and shall take effect on September 19, 2007.

The Embassy of the United States of America takes this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali the assurances of its highest consideration.

Attachment:

As stated



Embassy of the United States of America,
Bamako, September 11, 2007.

United States of America-Republic of Mali Memorandum of Understanding
Extension 2007
Revised Article II

- A. The Government of the Republic of Mali shall use its best efforts to permit the exchange of its archaeological material for educational, cultural and scientific purposes under circumstances to be determined.
- B. Representatives of the Government of the United States and representatives of the Government of the Republic of Mali will take action to publicize this Agreement.
- C. As appropriate under existing programs in the public and/or private sectors, the Government of the United States shall use its best efforts to 1) respond to requests from the Republic of Mali for technical assistance in cultural resource management and security, and 2) promote professional exchanges to enhance the capacity of the Republic of Mali in exhibition preparation and conservation science.
- D. Both Governments shall seek to encourage academic institutions, non-governmental institutions, and other organizations to cooperate in the interchange of knowledge and information about the cultural patrimony of the Republic of Mali, and to collaborate in the preservation and protection of its cultural patrimony through appropriate technical assistance, training and resources.
- E. The Government of the Republic of Mali shall seek to develop and promote professional training programs for archaeologists, museum staff, and public institution administrators responsible for cultural patrimony.
- F. Recognizing the successful initiatives of the Government of the Republic of Mali through the establishment of Cultural Missions that carry out research, site management, and educational programs among local populations at major archaeological sites, the Government of the United States encourages the continuation of such measures as part of an effort toward sustainable strategies for protecting cultural resources.
- G. The Government of the Republic Mali shall establish an interministerial committee to coordinate activities to preserve cultural heritage and shall strengthen efforts to reduce the internal sale and export of the restricted antiquities, and sensitize tour operators and others about the need to protect archaeological sites against looting in regions such as the Sahara. This interministerial committee and the U.S. Embassy shall meet once a year to review the status of the Agreement.
- H. The Government of the Republic of Mali shall endeavor to strengthen cooperation with its neighboring states, for the protection of the cultural patrimony of the region. The Government of the Republic of Mali shall also seek the cooperation of other nations where there is a market for illicit Malian archaeological material to reduce the importation into those countries of such material.